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Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 00648 111640Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-04 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 IO-13 /051 W
----------120238Z 010048 /66
R 111455Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6017
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 0648

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF
SUBJ: PRETORIA SCHOOLS QUIET

REFERENCE: JOHANNESBURG 272, CAPE TOWN 186

1. UNLIKE VIOLENCE IN JOHANNESBURG AND CAPE TOWN (REFTELS) ALL SCHOOLS IN PRETORIA'S BLACK TOWNSHIPS HAVE OPENED WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE VIOLENCE AND WITHOUT POLICE ACTION. EXCEPT FOR STUDENT BOYCOTT IN ATTERIDGEVILLE, ALL STUDENTS HAVE RETURNED TO CLASSES IN REMAINING TOWNSHIPS OF GA-RANKUWA, MABOPANE AND MAMELODI.

2. ENTIRE 900-STUDENT BODY OF ATTERIDGEVILLE'S HOFMEYR HIGH SCHOOL IS BOYCOTTING CLASSES TO PROTEST DECISION BY PRINCIPAL AGAINST REINSTATEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 70 STUDENTS WHO FAILED THEIR FINAL EXAMINATIONS LAST YEAR. TRADITIONAL PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO LET THESE STUDENTS HAVE A SECOND CHANCE THE FOLLOWING ACADEMIC YEAR. PRINCIPAL HAS BROKEN TRADITION AND STUDENTS, WITH SUPPORT OF CLASSMATES, CLAIM THEY ARE BEING VICTIMIZED FOR PARTICIPATING IN 1976 RIOTS.
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EXCEPT FOR MINOR STONING, BOYCOTT HAS BEEN PEACEFUL AND POLICE WERE NOT CALLED.

3. MAMELODI HIGH SCHOOL'S 1800 STUDENTS ARE ATTENDING CLASSES AS SCHEDULED. SOLE INCIDENT TO DATE OCCURRED ON MORNING OF FEBRUARY 4 WHEN STUDENTS STONED PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE TO PROTEST 100 PCT INCREASE IN SCHOOL FEES. (NOTE:

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SCHOOL FEE OF $8.05 RAISED TO $17.25 WAS FIRST INCREASE IN
19 YEARS). DEPUTY PRINCIPAL INFORMED EMBOFF AT SCHOOL
FEBRUARY 11 THAT ATTENDENCE IS GREATER THAN ANY PREVIOUS
YEAR AND ATMOSPHERE IS TENSE DUE TO OVERCROWDING OF CLASSES.

4. COMMENT: SHOULD ATTERIDGEVILLE PRINCIPAL CONTINUE
HARDLINE ON REINSTATEMENT OF STUDENTS IN QUESTION, SITUATION
COULD EASILY DETERIORATE INTO MORE VIOLENT FORM OF PROTEST.
DISSATISFACTION FROM OVERCROWDED CONDITIONS IN MAMELODI
HIGH AND BANTU EDUCATION SYSTEM IS HIGH ENOUGH SO THAT ONLY
A SPARK IS NEEDED TO INCITE MAMELODI STUDENTS. BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCHOOLS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770050-0510
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770249/aaaabrph.tel
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